

## HEARD FROM COOK IN LISBON

WHAT'S THE LAST, SAYS WAKE; MRS. COOK HAS RECORDS.

His Supporter Who New Rejects the Polar Claims Tells of the Doctor's Disappearance—Doesn't Think That Mrs. Cook Has Found Her Husband.

Charles Wake, the insurance man who has been one of the staunchest backers of Dr. Frederick A. Cook, issued a statement last night in which he told the full story of his relations with Cook. After relating how Cook had practically been driven into seclusion by denunciatory threats, Mr. Wake tells of the steps he took to assist Cook.

"The doctor and his wife evinced an increasing anxiety to have me with them," says Mr. Wake. "and beginning with November 18 I spent every night at the Hotel Gramatan. So great was their fear for the safety of his original records that from the second night I consented to the door between their room and mine being left open. They urged me repeatedly to go with them to Europe to safeguard the original records, but I did not consider it necessary and could not see my way clear to do it. During all the time that I was with them the doctor was unable to get any sleep night or day, and at the end he was practically a nervous wreck. He became even more uncommunicative than usual, and would not express his thoughts.

"It was finally arranged that Mr. Lonsdale, Dr. Cook's secretary, should sail for Copenhagen with a typewritten copy of the records on the United States of the Scandinavian-American Line, sailing on November 25, and that the doctor and his wife, carrying the originals, should sail for Genoa under an assumed name on the Cedric, leaving on November 27. Lonsdale, after he had deposited the copy was to go, accompanied by some trustworthy person, to Nettin, Germany, to meet the doctor and his wife. Lonsdale and his companion were then to take the originals to Copenhagen and Dr. Cook was to remain within easy distance of the university. Their passage on the Cedric was secured, but subsequently it was agreed that their departure should be deferred until it became more certain that they would not be detected and followed. When I left the Hotel Gramatan at noon on Wednesday, November 24, it was understood that the doctor and Lonsdale should come to my office at 3 o'clock that afternoon to arrange some of the details of Lonsdale's departure. To allay the anxiety of the doctor and his wife I had arranged with a detective agency to have him constantly shadowed, and the detective was at my office at 3 o'clock to pick him up.

"Dr. Cook did not appear at the hour appointed, but about 4 o'clock Lonsdale telephoned my office that 'everything was all right. I was not surprised that he did not appear, for by that time my telephone, as well as Dr. Cook's, was being followed by a corps of detectives day and night, but I was greatly astonished when I failed to receive any further word for several hours. During that anxious period I imagined all sorts of things, and reproved myself for not having had the doctor shadowed earlier.

"Lonsdale eventually connected with me by the telephone, away from my office, and at 4 o'clock he told me the story of Dr. Cook's disappearance. He said they came down from Bronxville at 2:30 o'clock that afternoon, intending to go to my office. On their arrival at the Grand Central Station they found the usual array of detectives waiting to shadow them. They hurried through the crowd and saw a southbound Madison Avenue car just getting away. On seeing the car the doctor suddenly exclaimed, 'Here's a chance to get away from them and I am going to take it. Come on.' They caught the car just as it was entering the Park Avenue tunnel, and were certain that the detectives had been left behind. They left the car at Thirty-third street, and went into the subway, where they boarded a southbound train after making sure that they were not followed. They left the train at Bleeker street, slipping out just before the first door was closed again to make sure that they were not being shadowed.

"From there they went to the Pennsylvania depot by a circuitous route and Dr. Cook took a train for Philadelphia. On the way to Jersey City he had his mustache shaved off and exchanged his derby for a soft felt hat. His parting words to Lonsdale were, 'Now I shall be able to write him, using the name of Harper, but tell him I trust him to keep this secret along with the rest.'

"I was greatly surprised and at first highly incensed that the doctor should leave in this fashion, and for the first time began to feel some misgivings as to his good faith, though I did not communicate them to his wife, for she was already greatly perturbed by his action. I concluded, however, that the severe strain he had been under was an extenuating circumstance, that perhaps his mind might have been affected and that therefore he should not be held too rigidly responsible, for in such an event he was more than ever in need of my friendship.

"Lonsdale sailed with a copy of the records on the United States on Thursday, November 25, and on the following day Mrs. Cook, who knew nothing more about her husband's whereabouts than I did, moved to New York. On the next day, the 27th, we received our first word from Dr. Cook. It came in the form of a letter postmarked Toronto, Ont., to Mrs. Cook. In it he told her to meet him in Europe at once. 'If the bonds are still pursuing you,' he said, 'put my original records in a safe deposit box and leave the key with Mr. Wake; if they are not following you bring records with you. My life is of more importance than the polar matter, which can wait if necessary.'

"I did not like the tone of the letter and said so, but Mrs. Cook begged me not to be hasty but rather to continue to give him the benefit of any doubt, and above all not to desert her in her hour of need. Realizing her predicament I promised to stand by her.

"I had all along urged upon the doctor

the necessity for getting his original records to Copenhagen with all possible dispatch. Therefore I returned them to Mrs. Cook, who had given them to me for safe keeping when her husband disappeared, with the suggestion that they be immediately sent to Lonsdale at Copenhagen by registered mail, for which purpose I procured linen envelopes. Mrs. Cook then said to me, 'I supposed she had previously mailed the records, but later on I discovered that she had changed her mind and had taken them with her. After she had mailed I received an inquiry from Dr. Cook, who was then in Europe, for his wife's whereabouts, which I communicated to him. The nature of this inquiry led me to believe that he was anxious to meet her to get his originals and hurry them to Copenhagen, and this strengthened my waning confidence and prompted me to give public expression to it. I have not heard from him since then, directly or indirectly, and I have no idea where he is now.'

Mr. Wake, when questioned further, said that the records taken to Copenhagen by Lonsdale, so far as he knew, were exact copies of the originals left behind. They consisted of two parts, a running story similar to that published by Cook, and a copy of his diary which contained the data from which the story was written. The originals, Mr. Wake says, have not reached Copenhagen, but even if they should he cannot say how they would alter the situation. He did not read the original records, he said, because Cook had written them with a sharp pencil and a magnifying glass, and the letters were so small as hardly to be legible without a glass. Mr. Wake said that he did not see Capt. Lonsdale at the Hotel Gramatan, and that Cook had evidently used none of the alleged data prepared for him by Lonsdale.

The threatening letters, Mr. Wake said, were partly anonymous and partly signed. They had a tremendous effect on Cook, who was greatly perturbed by them.

The last that Mr. Wake heard from Cook was when on December 10 he received a cablegram from him from Lisbon, where Cook was staying at the Central Hotel. The message was signed Fred Hunter. It said: 'Where is Marie?' This was an inquiry about Mrs. Cook, who was to take the original records to her husband. Mr. Wake was on the ocean at that time, and Mrs. Wake called her husband's address from where she landed.

"Where Mrs. Cook now is Mr. Wake refused to say. 'She believes in her husband's expedition,' he said, 'and she has enough of a burden to bear. I will not add to it by telling where she is.' Since receiving this cable from Cook Mr. Wake has heard no word, although he has twice cabled him. He thinks that Mrs. Cook has not yet found her husband. Where the letter is Mr. Wake said he had no idea.

The part of Dr. Cook's record that was left in the north, Mr. Wake said, had to do only with Cook's movements after he got back to land on his long journey. There was nothing in these records that was material to the claim of discovering the pole.

"Until Cook disappeared," said Mr. Wake, "I believed that he would make good on both the Mount McKinley and the pole expeditions. His disappearance is a case of overwork and nerves. It is his silence, his failure to come out and defend his claim, that is questionable."

Mr. Wake in his formal statement said:

"I believed in the man and was quite willing to abide by the decision of Copenhagen, which I now feel disposed of the matter."

**LITTLE TIM'S SUCCESSOR.**

Fitzgerald Understood to Succeed the Heads in Tammany Hall.

The annual meeting of the Tammany Hall general and executive committees will be held next Wednesday night, J. J. Fitzgerald will be elected president of the general committee and Thomas F. McAvoy chairman of the executive committee. The election of a successor to Little Tim Sullivan on the executive committee is the only business out of the routine. Ex-Senator John C. Fitzgerald probably will be named in Little Tim's place. It was Little Tim's wish that Johnnie White should step into his political shoes in the Third district, but Big Tim has decided that the situation will require somebody with more experience. Little Tim's gone "the Big Follow" it is said, realizing that there is work ahead for him not only in the Third but in the First and Second districts, both old Sullivan strongholds. In the First Battery Dun Finn has led the Tammany forces for years. He, however, is getting on in years and is not expected to do much more as an active leader. In the Second district Tom Foley, one of the Sullivan chief lieutenants, is still alive in a senatorial way, but he is not expected to be elected again. It was said last night, would have been elected as the leader after the late election had Tammany come out on top. Now, however, he feels that he has to stand by his guns, but his ill health may prevent him from doing much active work.

**TROLEY DIES THROUGH ICE.**

Motorman and Conductor Felled in Vestibule and Drowned.

NEW HAVEN, Dec. 26.—Coroner Eli Mix of this city is investigating to-night into the cause of the trolley accident in Seymour, about sixteen miles from this city, which resulted in the death to-day of Marcus Donovan, conductor, and Fred Beard, motorman.

A car headed for this city at 11 o'clock this morning, running along by the edge of the Naugatuck River, when a slippery switch and jumping the track rolled down a ten foot embankment and plunged forward and first through the ice of the river.

The conductor had just joined the motorman in the forward part of the car to turn on the lights and both were pinned in and drowned before help could reach them.

There were only five passengers in the car and they climbed over the seats and made their escape through the rear door. The bodies of the motorman and conductor have not been recovered.

**Last Sacraments For Satelli.**

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

Rome, Dec. 26.—Extreme unction was administered to Cardinal Satelli at midnight this morning. Later he received the viaticum.

**DEWEY'S WIFE FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS.**

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Mrs. Dewey is expected to receive a large number of holiday gifts from friends and relatives.

## NOW TAFT DEFINES WHISKEY

RULES THAT DR. WILEY AND BONAPARTE WERE WRONG.

President Says You Can't Take a Narrow View or a Mere Dictionary View of It, and Lets in a Lot of Whiskey the Purists Decided to Shut Out.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—In a 4,000 word opinion on which he has been working for many weeks President Taft to-day decided the much mooted question of "What is whiskey?" differing in his decision from Harvey W. Wiley, chief chemist of the Department of Agriculture; Lloyd N. Bowers, Solicitor-General of the United States, and former Attorney-General Charles J. Bonaparte. From Mr. Bonaparte and Dr. Wiley the President differs radically in his findings, and from the opinion of Solicitor-General Bowers, which he commends highly, he takes exception also.

In effect the President finds that other interpretations of the pure food act of June 30, 1906, as applied to whiskey have been too narrow. "After an examination of all the evidence," he says, "it seems to me overwhelmingly established that for a hundred years the term 'whiskey' in the trade and among the customers has included all potable liquor distilled from grain; that the straight whiskey is, as compared with the whiskey made by rectification or redistillation and favoring and coloring matter, a subsequent improvement, and that therefore it is a perversion of the pure food act to attempt now to limit the meaning of the term 'whiskey' to that which modern manufacture and taste have made the most desirable variety."

Both Dr. Wiley and Attorney-General Bonaparte found that the brand "whiskey" could be applied properly only to "straight whiskey," or such liquor as was made by one distillation and by aging in charred oak barrels, and Mr. Bowers, the President's report says, "fell into the error of making too nice a distinction in reference to the amount of congenic substance or traces of fusel oil required to constitute whiskey for practical purposes."

"It is undoubtedly true," says the President, "that the liquor trade has been disgracefully full of frauds on the public by false labels; but these frauds did not consist in palming off something which was not whiskey, but in palming off one kind of whiskey as another and better kind of whiskey. Whiskey made of rectified or redistilled, or neutral spirits and given a color and flavor by burnt sugar, made in a few days, was often branded as Bourbon or rye straight whiskey."

"The way to remedy this evil is not to attempt to change the meaning and scope of the term 'whiskey' accorded to it for one hundred years and narrow it to include only straight whiskey, and there is nothing in the pure food law that warrants the inference of such an intention by Congress. The way to do it is to require a branding in connection with the term 'whiskey,' which will indicate just what kind of whiskey the package contains."

"Such straight whiskey may be branded as such and may be accompanied by the legend 'aged in the wood.' Whiskey made from rectified, redistilled or neutral spirits may be branded as whiskey made from rectified, redistilled or neutral spirits as the case may be."

"Those who make whiskey of rectified, redistilled or neutral spirits cannot complain if in order to prevent further frauds they are required to use a brand which shall show exactly the kind of whiskey they are selling. For that reason it seems to me fair to require them to brand their product as 'whiskey made from rectified spirits' or 'whiskey made from rectified spirits' or 'whiskey made from neutral spirits,' as the case may be, and if aged in the wood, as sometimes is the case with this class of whiskeys, they may add this fact."

Referring to the question of blends, of which the pure food laws say "in the case of articles labeled, branded or tagged so as to indicate plainly that they are compounds, imitations or blends," the term blend shall mean a mixture of like substances. The President says, "and where straight whiskey and whiskey made from neutral spirits are mixed it is proper to call them a blend of straight whiskey and whiskey made from neutral spirits."

In regard to the "distillate from molasses used for drinking, commonly known as rum," the report says that the use of the whiskey label is "misbranding."

"This opinion," says the President, "will be certified to the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor to prepare the regulation in accordance herewith under the pure food law, and to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Internal Revenue to prepare the proper regulation under the internal revenue law."

While the President calls the consideration of the question by Dr. Wiley and other distinguished chemists "able" and speaks highly of the findings of Solicitor-General Bowers, he takes one shot at former Attorney-General Bonaparte when he says: "So far as appears from Mr. Bonaparte's opinion, he accepted a definition of whiskey from a dictionary or encyclopedia, and in forming and expressing his opinion he had not the benefit of any evidence as to the meaning or scope of the term acquired from manufacturers, dealers or consumers in the trade."

In reaching his decision the President himself took evidence with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Attorney-General.

**STARTED FIRE IN LETTER BOX.**

Two Swedes Arrested For Attempted Arson in a Flat in Bayonne.

Custer Johnson, a Swede, aged 22 years, of 150 Broadway, Bayonne, was held for the Grand Jury without bail yesterday by Recorder Maft of that city on a charge of arson. George Nelson, aged 24, also a Swede, of 422 West Thirty-seventh street, Manhattan, was also held on a similar charge. Johnson admitted having stuffed papers into a letter box in the flat at 234 Broadway and then set fire to it. He said he did not know why he did it. Nelson denied having had anything to do with the blaze, which a tenant discovered in time to prevent damage.

## COAST FREIGHTER AGROUND.

Thurmond, Coal Laden, Hits the Toms River Bar—Crew Taken Off.

POINT PLEASANT, N. J., Dec. 26.—The freight coaster Thurmond, loaded with soft coal from Newport News to Providence, is off Toms River. She lies hard and fast on the bar. Her officers and crew, twenty in all, were taken off by the life savers of the Toms River and Chadwicks stations with the breeches buoy.

The Thurmond had a barge in tow. It was similarly loaded. Coming up the coast the barge, which has five men on board, broke loose. The air was thick with the driving snow. As soon as the barge broke loose warning was given and the Thurmond put about to stand by the barge. In the thick weather the steamer failed to pick up the barge and began hunting for it. It was while thus engaged at 9:30 o'clock this morning that the Thurmond hit the bar.

The steamer's whistle had been heard ashore for an hour, and when she began to signal that she was herself in trouble the life savers were ready. They had been expecting her to ground because of the nearness of the whistle's sound.

The Thurmond, swept up by the sea, drove steadily on the bar. After several misses the life savers were able to throw a line to her. After that the work of getting the men ashore was accomplished quickly. The officers wanted to remain on board, but the life savers warned them they had better come ashore and that they would be put on board just as soon as the storm abated.

The men are being cared for at the life saving stations. There is much drifting of ice, but it does not appear to have come ashore, and late this afternoon, when the storm let up for a time before dark, there was a report that a barge was at anchor off shore about off Chadwicks.

The Thurmond is hard and fast aground.

**FIRE APPARATUS STALLED.**

Horses Exhausted in Williamsburg and Men Had to Pull the Machines.

The inability of firemen to reach a burning dwelling at 121 Wyckoff avenue, Williamsburg, yesterday on account of the snowdrifts caused the destruction of that house and another adjoining it, at 123 Wyckoff avenue.

The two buildings were occupied by a dozen families. The fire started in the cellar of 121 and quickly spread up the shaft to the roof. Capt. Becker of the Hamburg avenue police station in learning of the blaze turned out the reserves and led them in a quick run to the rescue.

When the police got there the flames had already communicated to the other house and there was a panic among the occupants of the two. Each family had tried to save as much property as was possible and the police had a difficult time in helping out all the people.

The engines and hook and ladder companies which responded to the alarm of fire had only covered a short distance when a horse became exhausted while trying to get through the drifts. It became necessary to unharness the animal and then the firemen pressed into service a large number of citizens who helped to pull the apparatus along. It was difficult work and when the fire was reached there was another delay in finding the fire hydrants. When they were discovered the snow had to be shoveled away from them and by the time the first line of hose was stretched both dwellings were burned out and the firemen directed their efforts toward saving the adjoining property. The loss was placed at \$10,000.

**ESCAPED FROM AUTO IN BOAT**

W. M. Gregory Found Himself Cut Off on All Sides by Water Near Manhattan.

RAY SIDE, L. I., Dec. 26.—William M. Gregory, a contractor and lively stable proprietor of Manhattan, was cut off on all sides by water when his automobile was overturned at midnight on Saturday and rescued himself by means of an oarless rowboat which he had in his car. He was rescued this afternoon.

Mr. Gregory was on his way home from Flushing and was alone in his car. He was driving at a good rate of speed because of his desire to get home out of the storm, and when he struck the causeway over Little Neck Bay between Bay Side and Douglass he let out another notch. Suddenly he found himself in three feet of water and all about him the causeway was submerged.

The speed at which he was traveling drove the automobile well into the lake before the water disabled the engine. Mr. Gregory stood up in his car and shouted for help, but as there is only one occupied house in the neighborhood, Mr. Gregory could hear no one near, and as he was becoming numb and bade fair to find himself in a serious plight he began to light matches in a chance hope that he thus might attract the attention of some one living in the neighborhood.

The light of the matches showed him a small rowboat drifting by a few feet away from the car. This boat, it later was learned, had been moored in the creek and had been blown from its fastenings and had followed the exceptionally high tide up on the road. Gregory waded to this boat, climbed in, and then discovered that there were no oars. He got out and pushed the boat to a fence running alongside the road, then got in again and propelled himself along hand over hand by using the fence as a sort of cable.

The causeway is half a mile wide and the trouble occurred pretty close to the middle of it. He waded his boat to the solid earth on the other side of the causeway and walked on the remaining three miles to his home. It was 5 o'clock when he got there.

**JONNESCO'S FATHER BETTER.**

Bucharest Surgeon May Stay a While in New York.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Dr. Thomas Jonnesco, the Bucharest surgeon whose use of stovaine has caused a stir, passed through Chicago late yesterday on his way from Rochester, N. Y., to New York. "I received information in Rochester to the effect that my father is seriously ill in Bucharest," he said. "Upon arriving in Chicago a cablegram was received to the effect that my father's condition was much improved. I probably will receive additional advices when I reach New York. I may defer my departure for Europe for several days or I may leave on the first steamer. I cannot tell now."

## MORGAN SELLS CHICAGO RY'S

A LOCAL SYNDICATE TAKES 95 PER CENT. OF STOCK.

Ira M. Cobe Announces That New York Banker Disposes of His Interest and Unity of Management of the South Division Surface Lines Is Secured.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Ira M. Cobe, acting for a syndicate back of the organization of the Chicago City and Connecting Railways Company, announced to-night that he had completed negotiations for the purchase of the interests of J. Pierpont Morgan in the Chicago City Railways Company for \$54,897,500.

The Chicago City and Connecting Railways Company was formed in New York last Friday in the office of Mr. Morgan, when J. P. Morgan, Jr., and Charles F. Steele, acting for Mr. Morgan, disposed of his interests.

About four or five years ago Mr. Morgan and allied interests purchased 95 per cent. of the outstanding stock of the Chicago City Railway Company for \$200 a share. This concern was capitalized at \$24,310,000 and Mr. Morgan paid \$48,620,000 for the property.

It is understood that those associated with Mr. Morgan were President John J. Mitchell of the Illinois Trust and Savings Bank, the late Marshall Field and more than 100 others who had small holdings.

Mr. Cobe gave out this statement to-night:

"An agreement has been entered into whereby about 95 per cent. of the shares of the Chicago City Railway Company, all of the shares of the Calumet and South Chicago Railway Company, all of the shares of the Southern Street Railway Company and all of the shares of the Hammond, East Chicago and Whiting Railway Company have been taken over by Chicago interests. This marks the passing of the Chicago City Railway Company out of the hands of the Morgan interests."

"These shares together with certain bonds heretofore placed upon the properties will be deposited with trustees who will issue securities based upon the stock and bonds deposited."

"The doings and policies of the trustees will be by the terms of the trust agreement be governed by a board of directors, the personnel of which is as follows: James B. Forgan, John J. Mitchell, Samuel Insull, John A. Shoor, Edward Morris, T. E. Mitten, E. K. Bolost and Ira M. Cobe."

"The separate corporate existence of the several properties will continue. T. E. Mitten will remain as president of the Chicago City Railway Company and will probably at an early date occupy the same position in the organization of all the roads."

"By vesting the ownership of the shares heretofore mentioned in trustees under the proposed agreement complete unity of management and operation of all the surface lines in the south division of the city is accomplished."

"Whenever a feasible plan shall be worked out for a consolidation of all the surface lines operated in Chicago then as to the south division it can be dealt with from a practical standpoint as one ownership instead of several, thus greatly lessening the difficulty of harmonizing a number of conflicting interests."

"While no definite arrangements have as yet been entered into with other transportation companies, yet the jointure in interests of the south division lines may fairly be considered as an important step in the direction of ultimate, complete consolidation."

The organization of the Chicago City and Connecting Railways Company is considered as the initial step toward the organization of a large holding company which will take over all the public utilities of the city of Chicago. This will include all the surface lines in the city and even far beyond, all of the elevated lines and all of the gas and electric light concerns.

A concern incorporated with a capital of \$400,000,000 is proposed to finance the venture of the promoters. In addition to the surface railway companies and elevated railroad companies about mentioned the proposition for a gigantic \$300,000,000 merger of the public utilities in Chicago would include the Oak Park elevated road, the Commonwealth Electric, the Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company and the Chicago Subways Company.

**DICKINSON AT SAN JUAN.**

Secretary of War and His Party Reach Porto Rico.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

SAN JUAN, P. R., Dec. 26.—The naval yacht Mayflower arrived here this morning, having on board Secretary of War Dickinson and Gen. Edwards, chief of the Bureau of Insular Affairs. Gov. Colton, Col. Howe, Commander Rohrer and several prominent Porto Ricans received them at the landing.

Discussions upon their reception, but the town was decorated in their honor. This afternoon the party took an automobile ride, and in the evening an official banquet was given at the Executive Mansion.

Colon, Dec. 26.—Five American Senators who spent a few days on the Isthmus informing themselves on canal matters sailed for home last night on board the gunboat Dolphin.

**BATTLE OVER A FOOTBALL.**

Chinese and Japanese After International Game Break Skulls.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—The Emergency Hospital was filled with battered Chinese and Japanese late this afternoon as a result of a fight between the two nationalities at the football grounds.

Last year the Chinese won the football game, so this year the Japanese gathered good players from various cities of the coast and won easily by 10 to 0. Then trouble began. When the result was announced one of the Chinese players seized the ball, which was to be given to the winning team as a trophy, and tried to escape. Instantly the Japanese raised a warning cry. The Chinese player was knocked down and in a few seconds a score of men on both sides were knocked out. The police jumped in and added a number of broken heads. The Japanese manager of the games called later at the newspaper offices and deplored the occurrence, which he said was precipitated by Chinese bad faith.

## WON'T GO BACK TO HUT.

Wealthy Guardian Adopts Boy Who Courts Say Isn't Count Kwiecki.

BELLEVILLE, Dec. 27.—The little boy who for nearly thirteen years believed himself to be the son and heir of Count Kwiecki of Posen until the courts decided last week that he was the son of a railroad level crossing keeper, who had been bought by Countess Kwiecki, found in his Christmas stocking a letter from a Polish millionaire named Ostrog, offering to adopt him as his son and heir.

Ostrog, on the death of the Countess Kwiecki, was appointed guardian of the boy and grew fond of him. The boy will enter his new father's family as soon as the court has confirmed the decision regarding his real birth.

Jurists are of the opinion that the boy will retain the title of Count, as Count Kwiecki's fatherhood was not formally challenged until the statutory period had expired.

**TAFT MAY NOT BE HERE TO-DAY.**

Damage to Railroads by the Storm Makes It Doubtful as to His Coming.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—President Taft was scheduled to leave Washington tomorrow morning for New York, where he was to be a guest of Andrew Carnegie at dinner. In the evening he was to make an address before a joint meeting of the American Historical Association and the American Economic Society at Carnegie Hall. Up to a late hour this evening, the railroads running into the Capital from the north had but very few trains through. A train which left Washington late last night came back this afternoon about 4 o'clock.

Although the railroad companies promised this evening to have things cleared up so that Mr. Taft could get to New York, White House officials were undecided as to whether he should take a chance. It had been decided that Mr. Taft would leave Washington early on account of the storm and the probable delay, but when it was found that the damage was much greater than at first believed, it became doubtful as to his going at all.

**FITZSIMMONS KNOCKED OUT.**

Lang Fights the Old Cornishman Away in the Twelfth Round at Sydney.

SYDNEY, Australia, Dec. 27.—Bill Lang, the Australian heavyweight, won from Bob Fitzsimmons in the twelfth round of their fight to-day that was to have gone twenty rounds.

Lang knocked the old fellow out. Fitzsimmons showed the effects of age.

**KERNOCHAN'S "FIRE."**

Wind Straws Ashes Over the Magistrate's Dinner—Firemen Oblige.

Next to the home of Magistrate Frederick Kernoch, at East Twenty-sixth street, is a tall office building, the Brunswick. The wind driving against the walls of the taller building last night crowded into the Magistrate's chimney in such gusts that presently the whole lower floor was filled with smoke and ashes.

Some one passing saw the smoke pouring from the windows and turned in an alarm. When the firemen came they filled an ash can with the remnants of the fire and dumped it in the street. No damage was done except to the dinner, which Mr. Kernoch and his family were eating when disturbed.

After it was all over the Magistrate passed out the signs to the firemen.

**WALK IN STORM KILLED HIM.**

A. W. Kohl Drops Dead in New Rochelle After Pledging Through the Snow.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., Dec. 26.—August W. Kohl, a retired wealthy resident of New Rochelle, dropped dead last night on reaching his home after tramping through the storm from the railroad station to his house at 87 Huguenot street. He had been spending Christmas with his daughter in Manhattan and arrived at New Rochelle on the 11 P. M. train. Mr. Kohl, who was 73 years old, couldn't get a trolley car or a hack to take him home so he decided to face the storm and started ploughing through snowdrifts which were above his knees. When he reached his home he was exhausted. He was taking off his overcoat when he fell to the floor dead.

Coroner H. B. Boedeker of Mount Vernon, who made an investigation, decided that Mr. Kohl had died of heart disease superinduced by exhaustion while walking in the storm.

**WIFE SHOT WHILE READING.**

Mrs. Edna Jackson Killed Accidentally by Her Husband at Elizabeth, N. J.

ELIZABETH, N. J., Dec. 26.—While reading a novel which she had received from her husband as a Christmas gift, Mrs. Edna Jackson, aged 20, was shot accidentally by him at 4:30 this afternoon and died a few minutes later. She received the full discharge of the rifle in her shoulder, the bullet glancing downward.

Immediately thereafter the husband was taken into custody, but the police believe the shooting was accidental and he will likely be discharged. The couple, it is said, were on the best of terms. The tragedy took place in the parlor. Near by stood a Christmas tree laden with toys for the two-year-old child of the couple. The child was playing near the tree when the mother was shot, but went on playing. The body was removed to the morgue.

The report of the rifle was heard nearly a block away.

**PRINCESS LOUISE'S \$3,000,000.**

Inheritance From King Leopold Revives Ex-Husband's Concern Over Her Debts.

VIENNA, Dec. 26.—Princess Philipp of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha has had a long interview with the Emperor Francis Joseph regarding the course he should pursue in the matter of the debts of his divorced wife, the Princess Louise of Belgium, which in Vienna alone amount to \$3,000,000.

The Princess has just inherited \$3,000,0